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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 09 ROME 005421

SIPDIS

FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA NSC FOR JDWORKEN NSC FOR JUNGKREN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
USUN FOR MLUTZ NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

SUMMARY

- 11. USAID STAFF FROM THE U.S. MISSION IN ROME AND FOOD FOR PEACE/WASHINGTON TRAVELED TO GUINEA, LIBERIA, AND SENEGAL SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 9 TO REVIEW THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION FOR REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS), AND RESIDENTS UNCLASSIFIED
- PAGE 03 ROME 05421 01 OF 09 0616322 WHOSE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY INFLUXES OF EITHER GROUP. THIS REPORT FOCUSES ON LIBERIA SOLELY. GUINEA WILL BE REPORTED VIA SEP TEL.
- 12. THE U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING FOOD RATIONS TO 184,027 IDPS IN LIBERIA. THE NUMBER OF IDPS HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IN THE CAMPS MUST BE IMPROVED. WFP HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN TIGHTENING THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROCESS, MAKING IT MORE EFFICIENT AND TIMELY, BUT IT REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE. WFP HAS ALSO PUT INTO PLACE MEASURES TO GUARD AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. THE RATION SIZE GIVEN TO IDPS NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED. IDPS HAVE BEEN GIVEN LAND FOR PLANTING AND THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO PLANT LAST SPRING/SUMMER ARE EXPECTING A GOOD HARVEST. THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE IDPS IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS THE LOCAL POPULATION AND CURRENTLY AT ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. THE GROWING BURDEN PLACED ON HOST FAMILIES MAY SOON HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED. THE MORALE OF THE U.N. FAMILY IS MUCH IMPROVED FROM SIX MONTHS AGO. APPROXIMATELY 22,500 SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES REMAIN IN LIBERIA. SEE PARA 36 FOR RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

- 13. SEPTEMBER 29 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, SENIOR EMERGENCY COORDINATOR (SEC) IN THE U.S. MISSION/ROME R. DAVIS UNCLASSIFIED
- PAGE 04 ROME 05421 01 OF 09 061632Z
 AND B. KRAHAM, USAID/DCHA/FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER
 (FFPO), TRAVELED TO LIBERIA AND GUINEA TO REVIEW THE
 FOOD SECURITY SITUATION FOR REFUGEES, INTERNALLY
 DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS), AND RESIDENTS WHOSE
 COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY INFLUXES OF EITHER
 GROUP. THE TEAM ALSO VISITED WEP'S WEST AFRICA
 PECIANNIA OFFICE IN DAMA TO REPORT ON THE ENDINNICS REGIONAL OFFICE IN DAKAR TO REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS.
- IN LIBERIA OCTOBER 1-3, THE TEAM MET WITH WFP, OTHER UNITED NATIONS (U.N.) AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND VISITED IDP CAMPS IN BONG COUNTY AND IDP AND REFUGEE CAMPS IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY. THE SEC VISITED LIBERIA LAST FEBRUARY AND VISITED THE BONG COUNTY CAMPS AND REFUGEE CAMPS NEAR MONROVIA AT THAT
- 15. WFP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL IDPS AND REFUGEES IN LIBERIA. A NEW WFP COUNTRY DIRECTOR (JUSTIN BAGIRISHYA, RWANDAN NATIONAL) AND DEPUTY (HOUSAINOU TAAL, GAMBIAN NATIONAL) ARRIVED IN JUNE. TOGETHER THEY HAVE WORKED TO INSTITUTE MANY CHANGES IN THE WAY THAT WFP IS OPERATING IN THE

HINCE ASSTREED

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LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 SRPP-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00 FDRE-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 NSAE-00 OES-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 SSO-00 STR-00 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PRM-00 SAS-00 /004W INFO LOG-00

-----0467CE 061716Z /38

P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6782 INFO USMISSION GENEVA NSC WASHDC

NSC WASHDC USDA FAS WASHDC 2388 AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY CONAKRY AMEMBASSY FREETOWN AMEMBASSY MONROVIA AMEMBASSY ABUJA AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USEU BRUSSELS 2915

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FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA
MSC FOR JDWORKEN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
USUN FOR MLUTZ USUN FOR MLUTZ NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

COUNTRY-ALL WITH THE INTENTION OF TIGHTENING THE OPERATION. THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON WFP'S REFORMS AND AREAS WHERE ATTENTION IS STILL NEEDED.

SITES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

16. IDP CAMPS IN BONG COUNTY (CARI I AND II, TV UNCLASSIFIED

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TOWER) WERE ATTACKED IN MAY AND JUNE AND THE
INHABITANTS WERE DISPLACED FOR A SECOND, AND
SOMETIMES THIRD OR FOURTH TIME. SUBSEQUENTLY, THREE
CAMPS NEAR THE TOWN OF TOTOTA WERE CONSTRUCTED:
MAIMU I, II, AND III. SOME IDPS LEFT AND RETURNED TO
CARI I, AND OTHER NEW IDPS ENTERED THE CARI CAMPS.
TV TOWER CAMP ALSO REMAINS. THE OCTOBER POPULATION
TOTAL FOR THE CAMPS IN BONG COUNTY WAS 59,160, WHICH
IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER THAT WERE DISPLACED IN
BONG IN FEBRUARY (28,500). 90 PERCENT OF THE IDPS IN
THE BONG CAMPS ARE FROM LOFA COUNTY.

- IDPS ALSO REMAIN IN BELEFANAI, BUT IT IS 17. IDPS ALSO REMAIN IN BELEFANAI, BUT IT IS CURRENTLY INACCESSIBLE DUE TO INSECURITY. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A GROUP OF ABOUT 5,550 IDPS IN GANTA (EAST OF BELEFANAI IN NIMBA COUNTY) WHO CHOOSE TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THE BORDER WITH GUINEA, BUT ARE RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM WFP
- IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FIVE IDP CAMPS IN 18. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FIVE IDP CAMPS IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY, WHICH ARE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO MONROVIA. THE TOTAL POPULATION OF IDPS IN MONTSERRADO IS 111,045 AS OF OCTOBER 24. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT 34 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE NUMBER OF IDPS THAT WFP FED IN MONTSERRADO IN SEPTEMBER. (NOTE: THE NUMBER OF IDPS IN WILSON CORNER MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 12,310 NEAR THE END OF SEPTEMBER TO 35,350 IN OCTOBER. WFP/LIBERIA AND OTHERS FEEL THAT DISPLACED STAYING WITH FAMILIES NEAR MONDROVIA ARE BEING ENCOURAGED BY THEIR PELITURES TO MONROVIA ARE BEING ENCOURAGED BY THEIR RELATIVES TO SEEK SHELTER IN THE CAMPS. SEE PARAS 28-29 BELOW. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 05421 02 OF 09 061632Z END NOTE.) THERE ARE ALSO FOUR REFUGEE CAMPS IN MONTSERRADO WITH A POPULATION TOTALING 22,500.

CLEANING UP IDP REGISTRATION

- 19. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IN THE IDP CAMPS IS SOMETHING THAT CONTINUES TO BE PERFECTED. THE GOVERNMENT'S LIBERIA REFUGEE, REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT COMMISSION (LRRRC) WAS, UNTIL RECENTLY, SOLELY IN CHARGE OF THE REGISTRATION, BUT THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS AND WFP WAS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE PROCESS. LRRRC WAS RELYING ON CAMP MANAGERS TO COMPOSE THE LISTS OF BENEFICIARIES. IN AN EFFORT TO VERIFY THAT POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES WERE TRULY DISPLACED, LRRRC HAD REQUIRED A FAMILY TO BUILD ITS HOUSE BEFORE IT RECEIVED A RATION CARD. DUE TO THE VULNERABILITY OF SOME HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS, THIS PRACTICE LED TO A LONG DELAY FOR SOME BENEFICIARIES IN RECEIVING ANY FOOD ASSISTANCE.
- 110. WITHIN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, IT WAS AGREED THAT

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AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00 FDRE-01 NSAE-00 OSS-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 R-00 INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 SRPP-00 TEDE-00 SEC-01 PRM-00 EAP-00 INR-00 SSO-00 EB-00 IO-00 STR-00 SAS-00 /005W

-----0467DE 061716Z /38 P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6783 INFO USMISSION GENEVA INFO USMISSION GENEV.
NSC WASHDC
USDA FAS WASHDC 2389
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION USUN NEW USEU BRUSSELS 2916

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FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA NSC FOR JDWORKEN NSC FOR JOHORREM
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC USUN FOR MLUTZ NATROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

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TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC

WHEN LRRRC REGISTERS THE IDP FAMILY, WFP WOULD HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT TO ISSUE THE RATION CARD. THIS WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF THE COUPON THAT LRRRC HAD BEEN GIVING, WHICH HAS CAUSED SOME FRAUD WITHIN THE DISTRIBUTIONS. EVEN SO, DURING AN OCTOBER 3 MEETING IN JAHTONDO CAMP, WHICH HAS AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 16,383 (AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 4,000 FROM THE SEPTEMBER FIGURE), IT BECAME QUITE CLEAR THAT THE RECENT REGISTRATION EXERCISE WAS FLAWED AND WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05421 03 OF 09 061633Z NEED TO BE REPEATED.

- 111. IN ADDITION, WFP HAS BEEN CONDUCTING VERTFICATION EXERCISES BEFORE DISTRIBUTIONS WHEREBY WFP STAFF VISIT THE HOUSE AND THE FAMILY MUST PRESENT THE NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS LISTED ON THE CARD. WFP CONDUCTED VERIFICATIONS IN ALL CAMPS PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTIONS IN SEPTEMBER AND PLANS TO EXECUTE THE VERIFICATION EXERCISE EVERY OTHER MONTH.
- 112. THE U.N. OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA) IS PLANNING A VERIFICATION EXERCISE OF ALL IDPS WHICH WILL SOON TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ALL THE CAMPS. UN AGENCIES AND NGOS ARE GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO OCHA. WFP IS SUPPORTING OCHA WITH BACK-UP COMPUTER SUPPORT AND TRANSPORT FOR THE EXERCISE AND IS HOPING THE VERIFICATION WILL LEAD TO REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBERS.

RE-VAMPING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

AFTER THE SECURITY PROBLEMS OF LAST MAY AND 113. AFTER THE SECURITY PROBLEMS OF LAST MAY AND JUNE, WPP STOPPED STORING COMMODITIES IN LOCAL WAREHOUSES UP-COUNTRY. EACH DAY THE TRUCKS FILLED WITH WFP COMMODITIES DROVE UP TO BONG COUNTY AND WFP DISTRIBUTED FOOD DIRECTLY FROM THE TRUCKS. ALTHOUGH THIS METHOD PREVENTED LOSS OF STOCKS, THE DISTRIBUTIONS WERE TAKING ALMOST THE ENTIRE MONTH TO COMPLETE. BAGIRISHYA AND HIS TEAM HAVE SINCE CUT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 05421 03 OF 09 061633Z MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION TIME DOWN TO SEVEN DAYS BY REOPENING THE WAREHOUSE IN PHEBE (BONG COUNTY) WITH THE ADDED PRECAUTION OF STORING FOOD FOR ONLY ONE DAY PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION, AND LEAVING IT PRACTICALLY EMPTY THE REST OF THE MONTH. WFP INTENDS TO ULTIMATELY CUT THE DISTRIBUTION TIME DOWN TO THREE OR FOUR DAYS.

- 114. BAGIRISHYA ALSO DISCOVERED THAT MANY OF THE FOOD MONITORS HAD BECOME OFFICE-BOUND AND DISPATCHED THEM ALL TO THE FIELD. THE MONTSERRADO CAMP MONITORS VISIT THE CAMPS EVERY DAY; THE UP-COUNTRY MONITORS VISIT TWO TO THREE TIMES A WEEK. THE MONITORS OVERSEE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS, ADDRESS PROBLEMS THAT ARISE, AND WORK WITH WFP'S IMPLEMENTING PARTNER TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY. THE MONITORS WILL ALSO SOON BE TRAINED IN POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING, SO THAT WFP WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF HOW LONG THE FOOD IS LASTING AND HOW IT IS USED.
- IN RESPONDING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ISSUES, 115. IN RESPONDING TO THE SEXUAL EAPLOTIATION 1550.
 WFP/LIBERIA IS TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT ALL FOOD
 AID MONITORS ADDRESS PROMPTLY AND ADEQUATELY ALL

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ATD-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 SRPP-00 EAP-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 SEC-01 SSO-00 EB-00 IO-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00
NSAE-00 OES-00 OIC-02
TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 STR-00 PRM-00 /005W SAS-00

P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6784 INFO USMISSION GENEVA INFO USMISSION GENEV. NSC WASHDC USDA FAS WASHDC 2390 AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY CONAKRY AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA AMEMBASSY ABUJA AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USEU BRUSSELS 2917

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SIPDIS

FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA NSC FOR JDWORKEN NSC FOR JOWORNEN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
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USUN FOR MILUTZ USUN FOR MIUTZ
NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO
DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC

GENDER ISSUES DURING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS, WHICH INCLUDE EMPORCING THE POLICY OF WFP'S COMMITMENTS TO WOMEN AND DISCOURAGING ALL ACTS THAT TEND TO ABUSE FEMALE BENEFICIARIES DURING AND AFTER THE DISTRIBUTIONS.

116. WFP IS ALSO DISCUSSING WITH WORLD VISION (WV) AND PREMIERE URGENCE THE POSSIBILITIES OF ONE OR BOTH NGOS ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYSTEMATIC POST-UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05421 04 OF 09 061633Z DISTRIBUTION MONITORING. THE QUESTION OF FUNDING HAS TO BE RESOLVED, HOWEVER.

- 117. IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASED MONITORING, WFP IS ESTABLISHING FOOD COMMITTEES IN EACH CAMP COMPOSED OF 60 PERCENT FEMALES AND 40 PERCENT MALES. FORMED IN COORDINATION WITH THE LRRRC, THE COMMITTEES WILL ALSO MONITOR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS AND REGISTER COMPLAINTS/PROBLEMS PROFFERED BY THE IDPS. MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEES IS FOR SIX MONTHS AND THE MEMBERS APE FLECTED. THE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED.
- 118. BAGIRISHYA HAS RESURRECTED THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID (CFA) AND SERVES AS ITS CHAIR. IT IS COMPOSED OF WFP, UNHCR, NGOS, THE LRRRC, AND DONORS. THE CFA MEETS EVERY OTHER WEEK AND PROVIDES A FORUM FOR ALL PARTNERS TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND PROBLEMS AND TO FIND SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE GROUP. ALL PARTNERS WELCOMED THIS MOVE THIS MOVE.
- 119. BAGIRISHYA HAS ALSO ORGANIZED A CFA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF SELECTED CFA MEMBERS AND OTHER AGENCIES WORKING WITH FOOD AID. THE TECHNICAL COMMITTER ADVISES THE CFA ON POLICY MATTERS AND ENSURES THAT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CFA ARE EXECUTED.

WFP AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

120. IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, WFP HAS SIGNED UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS NGOS TO WORK AS IMPLEMENTING
PARTNERS (IPS), DISTRIBUTING WFP FOOD IN THE CAMPS.
WFP IS PROVIDING SOME TRAINING TO ITS IPS ABOUT THE
CORRECT METHODS OF DISTRIBUTING THE FOOD: HOW TO
CHECK THE CARDS, HOW TO SCOOP THE RATIONS FOR EACH
FAMILY SIZE, ETC. THE IP AGREEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- BONG COUNTY IDP CAMPS (ALL 7): LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)
- 1B. MARGIBI COUNTY, KAKATA (IDPS): ADRA
- 1C. NIMBA COUNTY, GANTA (IDPS): UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR)
- 1D. MONTSERRADO IDP CAMPS:

BLAMASEE AND WILSON TOWN: LIBERIAN ISLAMIC UNION FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (LIURD) SAWEGBEAH, PLUS IDPS IN VOA AND ZUANNAH TOWN REFUGEE CAMPS: WORLD VISION (WV) JAHTONDO AND RICKS INSTITUTE: ADRA

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P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6785 INFO USMISSION GENEVA NSC WASHDC

USDA FAS WASHDC 2391 AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY CONAKRY AMEMBASSY FREETOWN AMEMBASSI FREETOWN AMEMBASSY MONROVIA AMEMBASSY ABUJA AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USEU BRUSSELS 2918

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FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

NSC FOR JDWORKEN NSC FOR JOWNREN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
USUN FOR MLUTZ NATROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC

1E. MONTSERRADO REFUGEE CAMPS (ALL 4): LIBERIAN ISLAMIC UNION FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

RATION SIZES

121. WFP IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING IDPS A RATION EQUAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05421 05 0F 09 061633Z
TO 1,800 KILOCALORIES (KC) PER DAY, WHICH IS 300 KC
SHORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF 2,100 KC PER
DAY. UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THOSE LIVING NEARER
TO MONROVIA WOULD HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL
COPING MECHANISMS, WFP'S NEW PRRO (WHICH BEGINS IN
JANUARY) PLANS TO PROVIDE THE IDPS IN MONTSERRADO
WITH 1,800 KILOCALORIES (KC), WHILE THE RATION FOR
THOSE IN CAMPS UP-COUNTRY WOULD INCREASE TO 2,100 KC.
AFTER VIEWING THE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION OUTSIDE SOME
OF THE BONG COUNTY CAMPS, HOWEVER, THE USAID TEAM
RECOMMENDS THE DECISION REGARDING RATION SIZE SHOULD
BE BASED ON VULNERABILITY AND/OR NUTRITIONAL
ASSESSMENT RATHER THAN A NOTIONAL DETERMINATION OF
COPING MECHANISMS AND URGED WFP TO MAKE DECISIONS
REGARDING RATION SIZE AFTER CONDUCTING ASSESSMENTS.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY AROUND THE CAMPS

122. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT IDPS ARE BEING PROVIDED LAND FOR PLANTING AROUND THE CAMPS IN BONG, AS WELL AS IN MONTSERRADO. WHEREAS IN FEBRUARY, THE AMOUNTS OF LAND PROVIDED TO THE IDPS WERE VERY SMALL AND IDP MOVEMENTS WERE GREATLY RESTRICTED OUTSIDE THE CAMP, TODAY THE SITUATION IS MUCH IMPROVED. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO PROBLEM NOW WITH IDPS FREELY MOVING IN THE AREA, AND THE FIELDS WITNESSED BY THE TEAM WERE TRULY IMPRESSIVE. THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE U.N. (FAO) PROVIDED SEEDS LAST SPRING, AND THE HARVEST WILL BE GOOD FOR THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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123. THE IDPS FROM LOFA ARE AN INDUSTRIOUS BUNCH AND WANT TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES. DURING A DISCUSSION WITH THE USAID TEAM, THEY ASKED FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS MORE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT. AS BONG AND LOFA COUNTIES ARE CONSIDERED THE BREAD BASKETS FOR THE COUNTRY, IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT IDPS FROM THESE COUNTIES BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN THEIR TEMPORARY LOCATIONS.

124. THE IDPS IN JAHTONDO CAMP IN MONTSERRADO HAVE BEEN GIVEN 189 ACRES OF LAND FOR PLANTING, AND ARE HOPING TO GET MORE TO ACCOMMODATE ITS 16,383 INHABITANTS. PLOTS, WHICH ARE SHARED BY TWO FAMILIES, ARE 132 X 82.5 FEET IN SIZE. THE IDPS IN JAHTONDO HAD PLANTED CASSAVA, COW PEAS, AND GROUND NUTS. SOME OF THE SEEDS HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY FAO. LRRCC TOLD THE USAID TEAM THAT IT HAD SEEN THE IMPACT OF FAO'S WORK IN LIBERIA, WHICH WAS CERTAINLY WELCOME NEWS. NEWS.

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INFO LOG-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00 FDRE-01 NSAE-00 OES-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 TEST-00 USIE-00 R-00 NP-00 AID-00 EB-00 IO-00 STR-00 /005W SRPP-00 EAP-00 TEDE-00 SEC-01 PRM-00 INR-00 SSO-00 SAS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6786 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRINFO USMISSION GENEVA NSC WASHDC USDA FAS WASHDC 2392 AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY CONAKRY AMEMBASSY FREETOWN AMEMBASSY MONROVIA AMEMBASSY BUJA AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USEU BRUSSELS 2919

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FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA
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USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
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FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AOR</u>

NUTRITIONAL STATUS

125. ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM (ACF) IS ADDRESSING NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS IN LIBERIA AND TOLD THE USAID TEAM THAT THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION WAS PRECARIOUS, BUT FAR FROM A DISASTER. MALNUTRITION RATES HAD PEAKED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, THE END OF THE HUNGRY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05421 06 OF 09 061634Z SEASON BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER.

126. ACF REPORTED THE NUMBER OF SEVERELY MALNOURISHED BENEFICIARIES (LESS THAN 70 PERCENT WEIGHT FOR HEIGHT) IN THE THERAPEUTIC FEEDING CENTERS (TFCS) WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO DECLINE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. THERE WERE 180 IN THE TFC IN THE VOA CAMP (MONTSERRADO COUNTY) AND 40 PERCENT OF THOSE WERE FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION. ACF REPORTED THE SAME TREND IN ITS TFC IN PHEBE IN BONG COUNTY. OUT OF THE 80 TTC BENEFICIARIES IN BONG, 45-50 PERCENT WERE FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION. ACF ATTRIBUTED THIS TREND TO THE INCREASED BURDEN PUT ON HOUSEHOLDS ACTING AS HOST FAMILIES TO IDPS, AS WELL AS THE DISRUPTION IN AGRICULTURE CAUSED BY THE UPROOTING OF OVER 200,000 PEOPLE. SUCH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF SEVERELY MALNOURISHED BENEFICIARIES FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION IS WORRISOME AND MERITS CLOSE MONITORING, EVEN THOUGH THE OVERALL NUMBERS ARE STILL SMALL. ACF REPORTED THE NUMBER OF SEVERELY MALNOURISHED

127. ACF SAID THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FOR MODERATELY MALNOURISHED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING CENTERS (SFCS) WAS THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. THE RECOVERY TIME IS LONGER THAN NORMAL BECAUSE THE SFC RATION IS BEING SHARED WITH THE FAMILY OR SOLD/BARTERED BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED NEEDS. NUMBERS IN THE SFCS IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY WERE BETWEEN 2,000 AND 2,500, WHEREAS NUMBERS IN THE SFCS UP-COUNTRY TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 1,000.

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128. AS STATED ABOVE, THE LOCAL POPULATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL THE BURDEN OF THE GROWING NUMBERS OF DISPLACED. IT SEEMED THAT EVERY LIBERIAN THE USAID TEAM MET WAS HOSTING EXTENDED FAMILY DISPLACED FROM THE NORTH. THE BURDEN THAT SUCH EXTRA FAMILY MEMBERS (SOMETHES AS MANY AS 10 OR MORE) CREATES ON AN ALREADY POOR FAMILY IS SIGNIFICANT. AS A RESULT, MANY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE NOTICED AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF DESPERATION AND IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BEGGING.

129. THE NEEDS OF THE HOST FAMILIES MAY SOON HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED. WFP IS HOPING TO TAKE AN INITIAL STEP TO IDENTIFY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS BY STARTING WITH A VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS AND MAPPING (VAM) STUDY. THE USAID TEAM FULLY SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE, AS THE NEEDS OF HOST FAMILIES ARE AN ISSUE THAT COULD GROW IN IMPORTANCE OVER TIME. A LREADY THE NUMBER OF HOSTING FAMILIES IN AND AROUND MONROVIA IS TROUBLING. AS PROVIDING ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE NEAR MONROVIA IS

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INFO LOG-00 LOG-00 NP-00 AID-0 SRPP-00 EAP-00 EB-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 EB-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00 FDRE-01

O-00 NSAE-00 OES-00 OIC-02 TR-00 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 /005W SEC-01 SSO-00 STR-00 PRM-00 SAS-00 /005t R-00

. ----04681D 061717Z /38

P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6787

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION GENEY.
NSC WASHDC
USDA FAS WASHDC 2393
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION USUN NEW YOU USEU BRUSSELS 2920

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UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 09 ROME 005421

SIPDIS

FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA NSC FOR JDWORKEN USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC USUN FOR MLUTZ NATROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC

LADEN WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRAUD, CREATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING THESE NEEDS WILL BE

POSITIVE CHANGES

130. THE LRRRC STAFF SEEM MUCH MORE ENGAGED THAN THEY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 05421 07 OF 09 061634Z DID IN FEBRUARY. THEY ARE TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CAMPS, THEY ARE MUCH MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESS, AND SEEM NOW TO BE MORE MOTIVATED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE IDPS.

131. LIKEWISE, THE MORALE OF THE U.N. COUNTRY TEAM HAS SUBSTANTIALLY RISEN. THE ADDITION OF THE U.N. RESIDENT COORDINATOR/ HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR MARC DE BERNIS HAS HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE TEAM'S MORALE. HE HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN PULLING THE TEAM TOGETHER, IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES REGARDING THE STATUS AND CONDITION OF THE IDPS (INCLUDING PROTECTION ISSUES), AND IN WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THESE ISSUES. THE WORK OF OCHA HAS ALSO GREATLY IMPROVED.

REFUGEE OPERATIONS

132. WFP CURRENTLY PROVIDES FOOD ASSISTANCE TO APPROXIMATELY 22,500 SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES WHO ARE ACCOMMODATED IN FOUR CAMPS IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY AS STATED ABOVE, LURD IS THE DISTRIBUTION PARTNER AND LWF IS CONDUCTING POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM) WHICH WAS BEGUN AFTER THE FEBRUARY VISIT OF FFP.
LWF'S PDM METHODOLOGY AND REPORTING HAVE PROVEN TO BE
INADEQUATE, HOWEVER. WFP INTENDS TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

133. WFP, THROUGH THE LIURD, PROVIDES A RATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROXIMATELY 1,800 KC PER DAY PER REFUGEE. IN THE
MEETING WITH THE REFUGEES, THEY ASKED THE USAID TEAM
FOR A VARIETY OF THINGS RANGING FROM BETTER SALT TO
LARGER RATIONS TO SUITCASES FOR THE TRIP HOME. ONE
REFUGEE EVEN COMPLAINED THAT THE COMPUTER TRAINING HE
HAD RECEIVED FROM UNHOR WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO HIS
SITUATION. THE USAID TEAM STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE
REFUGEES TO RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE. FUTURE.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

134. UNDER ITS CURRENT PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION (PRRO), IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT WFP/LIBERIA WOULD REQUIRE A TOTAL OF 16,476 METRIC TONS (MT) FOOD AID TO PROVIDE FOR A MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 112,000 BENEFICIARIES (JANUARY - DECEMBER 2002), WHICH
WFP/LIBERIA IS CURRENTLY FAR EXCEPING (FEEDING OVER
223,000 IN NOVEMBER). FY 2002 USAID/DCHA/FFP TITLE
II EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIBERIA WERE 5,480 MT FOOD COMMODITIES OR 2.8 MILLION USD, REPRESENTING

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INFO LOG-00
                              NP-00
                                                    AID-00
             SRPP-00 EAP-00
TEDE-00 INR-00
                                                    EB-00
IO-00
                                                EB-00
IO-00
STR-00
             SEC-01
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             PRM-00 SAS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6788
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PR:
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
NSC WASHDC
USDA FAS WASHDC 2394
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONARRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ABILIA
AMEMBASSY ABUJA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USEU BRUSSELS 2921
                                                 UNCLASSIFIED
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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J3/J4/J5
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UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 09 ROME 005421
STPDTS
FROM AMEMBASSY ROME
GENEVA FOR RMA
NSC FOR JDWORKEN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
USUN FOR MLUTZ
NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO
DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AORC

ABOUT 33 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PRRO FOOD REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBERIA. WFP REPORTS THAT THE PIPELINE IS FINE THROUGH THE END OF 2002.

THE NEW PRRO FOR COASTAL WEST AFRICA WAS 135. THE NEW PRRO FOR COASTAL WEST AFRICA WAS APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2003. IT REQUESTS 30,305 MT FOOD FOR 12 MONTHS FOR LIBERIA. BY COINCIDENCE, THE NEW PRRO INCLUDES COTE D'IVOIRE AND ALSO CARRIES WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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IT A CONTINGENCY MEASURE TO ACCOMMODATE AN ADDED
BENEFICIARY LOAD OF 50,000, IF NEEDED. THE
CONTINGENCY WAS ORIGINALLY WITH LIBERIA IN MIND, BUT
COULD BE ACTIVATED FOR ANY OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES OF THE PRRO.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS FOR WFP AND **1**36. USAID:

-- WFP NEEDS TO REMAIN VIGILANT ABOUT THE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE CURRENT CAMPS AND NEW IDPS. THE NEW PROCESSES WFP HAS PUT INTO PLACE ARE WELCOME AND EFFECTIVE, BUT IT IS A DYNAMIC PROCESS THAT REQUIRES CONSTANT ATTENTION.

-- WFP SHOULD BASE THE SIZE OF THE IDP RATION ON VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS RATHER THAN ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING COPING MECHANISMS AS THEY RELATE TO CAMPLOCATION.

-- AS MANY OF WFP'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS IPS ARE FAIRLY NEW, WFP SHOULD CLOSELY MONITOR THE WORK OF THE IPS' DISTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY.

-- WFP SHOULD WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING A VAM STUDY OF HOST FAMILIES TO DETERMINE LEVEL OF VULNERABILITY OUTSIDE THE IDP CAMPS. WFP/LIBERIA WILL HAVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DETERMINE HOW THIS WILL BE FUNDED. USAID/DCHA ALSO
NEEDS TO CONSIDER HOW ASSISTANCE IN AND AROUND
MONROVIA MAY BE PROVIDED TO HOST FAMILIES IF DEEMED
NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE.

NOTE: TO THIS END, USAID/DCHA/OFDA ALREADY IS FUNDING WFP/VAM WORK IN GUINEA SO THAT WFP CAN BETTER TARGET VULNERABLE IDPS AND THEIR HOST FAMILIES. WFP/SIERRA LEONE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE THREE OTHER FOOD PIPELINE AGENCIES, HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED A VAM PROPOSAL TO USAID/OFDA FOR CONSIDERATION. THE SEC RECOMMENDS THAT WFP ENSURE A COMMON REGIONAL VAM METHODOLOGY IN THESE THREE COUNTRIES AND THAT USAID/OFDA CONSIDER SUPPORTING SUCH A REGIONAL APPROACH.

-- WFP SHOULD SOON BEGIN POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM) IN THE IDP CAMPS. FUNDING IS AGAIN AN ISSUE THAT MUST BE RESOLVED.

-- THE PDM THAT IS ONGOING IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED AND IMPROVED, AS THE REPORTS ARE

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TEDE-00 INR-00
SEC-01 SSO-00
PRM-00 SAS-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 EB-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTED-00 FDRE-01 IO-00 NSAE-00 OES-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 STR-00 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 R-00 //005W INFO LOG-00

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P 061523Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6789

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRI
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
NSC WASHDC
USDA FAS WASHDC 2395
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY TOKYO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USEU BRUSSELS 2922

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SIPDIS

FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA
NSC FOR JDWORKEN
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND
FAS/ICD KRAMER, LEBLANC
USUN FOR MLUTZ NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO DAKAR FOR NESTES AND KSTURR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: <u>EAID EAGR AORC PREF EAGR AOR</u>

SERIOUSLY LACKING PERTINENT INFORMATION.

-- WFP/LIBERIA IS ABSENT AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER. ALTHOUGH THE NATIONAL STAFF MEMBER IS QUITE COMPETENT, THIS POSITION NEEDS TO BE FILLED SOON. THE WFP REGIONAL OFFICE IS AWARE OF THIS NEED.

137. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HALL

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